

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Soil compacting device, comprising:

- a common upper mass having a drive; and
- at least two lower masses that are coupled to the upper mass and that are capable of oscillatory movement relative to the upper mass,
each lower mass having
- a soil contact plate and
- at least one vibration exciter that is allocated to the soil contact plate and that is driven

by the drive, and wherein a resultant propulsive force in a direction of propulsion can be produced at least by one of the vibration excitors of the at least two lower masses.

2. (Currently Amended) A soil compacting device as recited in Claim 1, wherein the vibration exciter has excitors have two or more imbalance shafts, each bearing one or more imbalance masses, that are situated parallel to one another or at an angle to one another, and that are capable of rotation in opposite directions to one another.

3. (Currently Amended) A soil compacting device as recited in Claim 12, wherein at least one of the vibration excitors exciter has a phase adjustment device for adjusting the relative phase position of the imbalance shafts to one another.

4. (Currently Amended) Soil compacting device as recited in Claim 1, wherein exactly one vibration exciter is situated on each soil contact plate.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A soil compacting device as recited in Claim 21, wherein at least one of the vibration exciterexcitors is situated in such a way that the horizontal component of the resultant force vector resulting from the imbalance shafts rotating in opposite directions to one another is oriented in or opposite to a main direction (A).

7. (Currently Amended) A soil compacting device as recited in Claim 21, wherein the vibration exciter is at least one of the vibration excitors is situated in such a way that the horizontal component of the resultant force vector that results from the imbalance shafts rotating in opposite directions is not oriented in or opposite to a main direction (A).

8. (Currently Amended) A soil compacting device as recited in Claim 21, wherein none of the vibration excitors exciter is situated in such a way that the horizontal component of the resultant force vector that results from the imbalance shafts rotating in opposite directions is oriented in or opposite to a main direction (A).

9. (Currently Amended) A soil compacting device as recited in Claim 21, wherein the vibration exciter at least one of the vibration excitors is situated in such a way that the horizontal component of the resulting force vector that results from the imbalance shafts rotating in opposite directions is oriented at a particular angle to a main direction (A).

10. (Previously Presented) A soil compacting device as recited in Claim 9, wherein the angle is 60° or 90°.

11. (Previously Presented) A soil compacting device as recited in Claim 1, wherein the upper mass has a central control unit for controlling the vibration excitors.

12. (Currently Amended) A soil compacting device as recited in Claim 11, wherein at least two vibration excitors are provided and the vibration excitors are capable of being controlled individually by the control unit.

13. (Currently Amended) A soil compacting device as recited in Claim 11, wherein the control unit is fashioned for the setting of different rotational speeds of the imbalance shafts in different vibration excitors.

14. (Previously Presented) A soil compacting device as recited in Claim 11, wherein the control unit is fashioned for the individual controlling of the phase adjustment devices provided on the individual vibration excitors.

15. (Currently Amended) A soil compacting device as recited in Claim 1, wherein at least one part of the lower masses each has a vibration exciter having a phase adjustment device, while at least one other lower mass has only a vibration exciter that does not have a phase adjustment device.

16. (Previously Presented) A soil compacting device as recited in Claim 1, wherein the soil compacting device can be guided by hand and/or has a remote control device.

17. (Previously Presented) A soil compacting device as recited in Claim 1, wherein the soil contact plates of the imbalance masses are situated so as to be offset to one another in such a way that the tracks that can be produced on the soil that is to be compacted during movement of the soil compacting device in at least one main direction of travel overlap at least partially.

18. (New) Soil compacting device, comprising:

- an upper mass having a drive; and
- at least two lower masses that are coupled to the upper mass and that are capable of oscillatory movement relative to the upper mass, each lower mass having
 - a soil contact plate, and
 - at least two vibration excitors that act on the soil contact plate and that are driven by the drive, at least one of the vibration excitors being adjustable so that the soil compacting device as a whole generates a resultant propulsive force having a component acting in a horizontal main direction (A) to moves the soil compacting device in the main horizontal direction.

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19. (New) A soil compacting device as recited in claim 18, wherein the at least one vibration exciter is adjustable so that the resultant propulsive force has a lateral force component that rotates the soil compacting device about a vertical axis.

20. (New) A soil compacting device as recited in claim 18, further comprising a control unit that is located on the upper mass that that controls each of the vibration excitors individually.